

Having, thus, described the invention, what is claimed is:

1     1.     A food treatment apparatus, comprising a base unit and a canister for rotatable  
2     placement on the base unit;  
3             said base unit comprising  
4                 a housing comprising a cradle section and a control panel section;  
5                 a vacuum pump disposed in the housing;  
6                 a control unit disposed in the housing;  
7                 a control panel on the housing and in electronic communication with the  
8     control unit;  
9             at least one rotatable roller in the cradle section of the housing; and  
10    an electric motor operatively connected to the rollers for causing rotation thereof;  
11             said canister comprising a substantially cylindrical main body and a cover  
12     comprising a valve, said cover being sealably attachable to said main body.

1             2.   The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said housing comprises a  
2     storage section formed therein, and a hinged cover over said storage section.

1             3.   The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cradle section of the  
2     housing has at least one arcuate cutout formed therein to allow a user to insert a hand  
3     below a portion of said canister as it rests on said cradle section.

1           4. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said canister cover comprises  
2 a valve and handle assembly which allows air to enter said canister in an open position  
3 thereof.

1           5. The food treatment apparatus of claim 4, wherein said valve and handle  
2 assembly comprises a ball valve which is operatively connected to a handle, wherein  
3 pivoting movement of said handle causes corresponding responsive movement of said  
4 ball valve.

1           6. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said main body of said  
2 canister is translucent.

1           7. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein the main canister body has a  
2 plurality of grooves formed in a side thereof, said grooves being alignable with rollers of  
3 said base unit.

1           8. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a vacuum line with  
2 a built-in fluid trap for interconnecting said base unit to said canister, wherein said  
3 vacuum line comprises a connection fitting for inserting into an opening in said canister  
4 valve, wherein said connection fitting has at least two O-ring seals thereon.

1           9. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base unit comprises four  
2 rollers, at least one of which is driven by said motor.

1           10. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base unit comprises a  
2   raised grid having air inlet slots formed therein.

1           11. A food treatment apparatus, comprising a base unit and a canister for  
2   rotatable placement on the base unit;  
3           said base unit comprising  
4               a housing comprising a cradle section and a control panel section, the  
5           housing having at least one vent opening formed therein;  
6               a vacuum pump disposed in the housing;  
7               a control unit disposed in the housing;  
8               a control panel on the housing and in electronic communication with the  
9           control unit; and  
10           at least one rotatable roller in the cradle section of the housing, and  
11   an electric motor operatively connected to the rollers for causing rotation thereof;  
12           said canister comprising a substantially cylindrical main body which is  
13           substantially translucent, and a cover comprising a valve, said cover being  
14           sealably attachable to said main body.

1           12. The food treatment apparatus of claim 11, wherein said housing comprises  
2   a storage section formed therein, and a hinged cover over said storage section.

1           13. The food treatment apparatus of claim 11, wherein the cradle section of the  
2   housing has at least one arcuate cutout formed therein to allow a user to insert a hand

3 below a portion of said canister as it rests on said cradle section.

1 14. The food treatment apparatus of claim 11, wherein said canister cover  
2 comprises a valve and handle assembly which allows air to enter said canister in an open  
3 position thereof.

1 15. The food treatment apparatus of claim 14, wherein said valve and handle  
2 assembly comprises a ball valve which is operatively connected to a handle, wherein  
3 pivoting movement of said handle causes corresponding responsive movement of said  
4 ball valve.

1 16. The food treatment apparatus of claim 11, wherein the main canister body has  
2 a plurality of grooves formed in a side thereof, said grooves being alignable with the  
3 rollers of said base unit.

1 17. The food treatment apparatus of claim 11, further comprising a vacuum line  
2 with a built-in fluid trap for interconnecting said base unit to said canister, wherein said  
3 vacuum line comprises a connection fitting for inserting into an opening in said canister  
4 valve, wherein said connection fitting has at least two O-ring seals thereon.

18. The food treatment apparatus of claim 1, wherein said base unit comprises four  
rollers, at least one of which is driven by said motor.

1           19. A food treatment apparatus, comprising a base unit and a canister for  
2 rotatable placement on the base unit;  
3           said base unit comprising  
4               a housing comprising a cradle section and a control panel section;  
5               a vacuum pump disposed in the housing;  
6               a control unit disposed in the housing;  
7               a control panel on the housing and in electronic communication with the  
8 control unit;  
9               at least one rotatable roller in the cradle section of the housing; and  
10 an electric motor operatively connected to the rollers for causing rotation thereof;  
11           said canister comprising a substantially cylindrical main body and a cover  
12 comprising a valve, said cover being sealably attachable to said main body,  
13 wherein the main canister body has a plurality of grooves formed in a side  
14 thereof, said grooves being alignable with the rollers of said base unit..